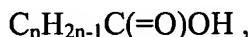


Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 28 through page 2a line 7, as follows:

According to the present invention, the problem has been resolved by a method for preparing metal salts of unsaturated, short-chain carboxylic acids by reaction

- of metal-alcoholate compounds
- with carboxylic acids of the general formula

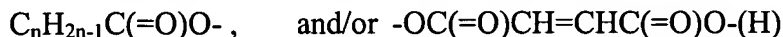


wherein the double bond is in 2- or 3-position and

n represents 2, 3, 4, 5, or 6 and/or maleic acid (less desirable),

in the presence of oxygen, which is continuously fed so that its concentration in the reaction solution is at least 50 %, i.e., the reaction solution is 50% oxygen-saturated and

the metal salts have at least one group of the formula



and the following metals or mixtures thereof

Al, Si, Sn, La, Zr, Cu and/or Zn.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 21, as follows:

wherein R^2 or R^3 represent $-CH_3$, $-C_2H_5$, $-C_3H_7$ or $-C_4H_9$

and n, R^1 , R^2 , and R^3 may be different for each a, b, and c and

at least one R^1 in $M(R^1)_c$ represents an alcoholate group having a C_1 – to C_6 hydrocarbons residue, in the presence of oxygen (O_2), which is continuously fed so that its concentration in the reaction is at least 50 % as set forth above.